

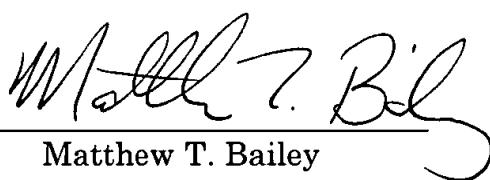
Application No. 09/827,177
Client Matter No. 80168-0121
Client Matter No. P5433

REMARKS

This Second Preliminary Amendment is being filed to correct a clerical error by deleting from the paragraph starting at page 15, line 20, the words "the wheel assembly of" which were erroneously put in the application. Attached herewith is a copy of the paragraph in question with the language to be deleted shown as struck-through. Also, claims 6-18 as amended in the Preliminary Amendment filed with the application on April 6, 2001, are being resubmitted in the format to comply with revised 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c).

No new matter is being introduced by this amendment and it is respectfully requested that the above amendment be entered accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Matthew T. Bailey
Reg. No. 33,829

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HOGAN & HARTSON LLP
555 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 637-5467
mtbailey@hhlaw.com
Customer No. 24633

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention covers the modifications and variations of this invention provided that they come within the scope of any claims and their equivalents.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

6. (Amended) The method for matching an order of [claims 1 and 2] claim 1, wherein the flattening step includes mapping one or more of the plurality of characteristics to the plurality of normalized dimensions.

7. (Amended) The method for matching an order of [claims 1 and 2] claim 1, wherein the plurality of normalized dimensions includes a set of orthogonal axes having a value from 0 to 1.

8. (Amended) The method for matching an order of [claims 3 and 4] claim 3, wherein the determining step includes searching a set of passive orders stored in a database.

9. (Amended) The method for matching an order of [claims 1, 2, 3 and 4] claim 1, wherein the determining step includes the step of comparing the plurality of normalized dimensions for the active order with a set of normalized dimensions for the passive orders to determine whether an intersection occurs.

10. (Amended) The method for matching an order of [claims 1, 2, 3 and 4] claim 1, wherein the determining step includes a distance calculation between the plurality of normalized dimensions of the active order and a set of normalized dimensions for the passive orders to evaluate relatively close matches for an order.

11. (Amended) The method of [claims 1, 2, 3 and 4] claim 1, wherein the distance calculation includes an iterative process of increasing a range associated with the plurality of normalized dimensions of the active order and comparing the increased range with a set of normalized dimensions for the passive orders to determine an intersection.

12. (Amended) The method of [claims 1, 2, 3 and 4] claim 1, wherein the passivating step includes storing the plurality of normalized dimensions for the active order in a data store.

13. (Amended) The method for matching an order of [claims 1, 2, 3 and 4] claim 1, wherein the name value pair includes data identifying the homogenous good or service and data relating to the value of the homogenous good or service.

14. (Amended) The method for matching an order of [claims 1, 2, 3 and 4] claim 1, wherein the determining step includes calculating an intersection between the plurality of normalized dimensions of the active order and a set of normalized dimensions of the matching order.

15. (Amended) The method for matching an order of claims [1, 2, 3 and 4] claim 1, wherein the rule based filter rejects a match between the active and passive orders which include identical name value pairs.

16. (Amended) The method for matching an order of [claims 1, 2, 3 and 4] claim 1, further comprising the step of notifying an entity associated with the active/passive orders of their mutual existence if the distance calculation meets a predefined criteria.

17. (Amended) The method for matching an order of [claims 1, 2, 3 and 4] claim 1, further comprising the step of aggregating a set of orders.

18. (Amended) The method for matching an order of [claims 1, 2, 3 and 4] claim 1, further comprising the step of deaggregating and resubmitting a remainder order after a match has been completed.